

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner considered the deletions made in the last paper as such despite that they were shown by brackets rather than strike-through. Strike-through is used in this paper to show deletions.

Claims Status

Claims 42, 46, 56-60, 63-65, 69, 70 are pending and all are amended in this paper. Claims 52, 53, and 68 are currently canceled. No claims are added or withdrawn from consideration in this paper.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 52 and 53 are canceled rendering this rejection moot.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 42, 46, 63-65, 68, and 69 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,447,481 (Holmberg et al.).

Independent claim 42 is amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 68 therein. As amended, the claim is directed to a plurality of cards of the invention arranged in a stack, with the second (bottom) side of a first (overlying) card in contact with the first (front or face) side of a second (underlying) card. The claim further recites that the cards do not stick to one another, despite the fact that the repositionable pressure sensitive adhesive is exposed and thus directly facing the first side of an underlying card.

This arrangement is distinct and novel over the stacks disclosed in Holmberg et al. where the adhesive strip on each sheet is covered by a release liner (referred to therein as protective strip 16) as the sheet is manipulated, stacked, etc.

The remaining claims, all of which ultimately depend from claim 42, are amended to confirm to the amended form of claim 42.

In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 USC § 102(b) has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claim 70 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmberg et al.

Claim 70 depends from claim 42, reciting, *inter alia*, that the cards are stacked with the adhesive exposed but without sticking to one another. As discussed above, Holmberg et al. does not disclose such an assembly, instead teaching that the adhesive is covered by protective strip

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when stacked.

It has been surprisingly found that despite having exposed pressure sensitive adhesive as recited in claim 42 that index cards of the invention may be manipulated, stacked, etc. without sticking to one another, yet may be secured to a mounting substrate when desired by application of a threshold level of pressure to the first side of the securing mechanism.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 70 is patentable over Holmberg et al. and request that the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 56-60 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmberg et al. in view of US Patent No. 5,924,227 (Sommers).

As discussed above, Holmberg et al. fails to disclose a stack of cards with exposed pressure sensitive adhesive which do not stick together absent application of a threshold pressure. Secondary reference Sommers, which is directed to index cards configured with cuts and folded portions to provide increased area, does not disclose or suggest the incorporation of adhesive portions on such cards. Accordingly, it cannot cure the deficiencies of Holberg et al.

Dependent claims 56-60 are patentable over the proposed combination of Holmberg et al. with Sommers for at least the same reasons that claim 42 is patentable over Holmberg et al. alone.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 56-60 under 35 USC § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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